

Décevement, au regard des
conséquences qu'a eu le plan
social pour moi-même, ma
famille, et en pensant aux
collègues qui ont aussi souffert
et pour certains sont toujours
à la recherche d'un emploi stable,
je ne peux signer qu'une
soit pour Reckitt a Colman.

Salutations

A. Couelas

A. Couelas

I, Helen Claxton

Translator on behalf of Global Accent, The Lowgate Centre, Lowgate, Hull HU1
1HP, England.

Hereby declare that I am conversant with the English and French languages and am a
competent translator thereof. I declare further that to the best of my knowledge and
belief the following is a true and correct translation of the accompanying documents
in French.



Signed this 12th day of February 2003

For and on behalf of Global Accent.

(Reckitt Benckiser Reference No. 10456P2 USw)

One looks at the effects that the restructuring programme (redundancy scheme) has had for myself, my family, and, thinking of colleagues who have also suffered and of some who are still searching for a stable job, I can not sign anything for Reckitt and Colman, it wouldn't be right.

Regards,

A. Canelas.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTS et al.
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB98/00950
Int'l Filing Date: 30 March 1998
U.S. Serial No.: 09/381,890
Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

SECOND DECLARATION RE INVENTOR ANNICK CANELAS

I, Christelle Leboucher-Madec, declare as follows:

1. I am a legal assistant in the Legal Office of Reckitt Benckiser France and, in connection with this matter, I executed a previous Declaration on 19 February 2002.

2. In the previous Declaration, I stated that, in a telephone conversation held on 13 February 2002, Ms. Canelas told me that she was not willing to sign the declaration which had been sent to her in October, 2001.

3. Shortly after our telephone conversation, I received an undated handwritten note from Ms. Canelas which concluded with a statement that she would not sign anything for Reckitt & Colman. A copy of this note is here attached.

4. On 18 December 2002, the Formalities Officer of Reckitt Benckiser plc informed me that another declaration had been sent to Ms. Annick Canelas and I was asked to contact her to see if she would now be willing to sign it. I do not know Ms. Canelas personally but I had been informed that she had moved. I was not provided with any information as to a possible new address. This information came to me informally because the personnel records of Reckitt Benckiser France had no information on a new address for Ms. Canelas. Furthermore, I no longer had her old telephone number.

5. I informed the Formalities Officer of Reckitt Benckiser plc that I was not able to contact Ms. Canelas and I also sent her a copy of the note referred to in paragraph 3 above.

I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patents issuing thereon.

Signed at Massy, France, this 20 day of February 2003



Christelle Leboucher-Madec

Décevant, au regard des
conséquences qu'a eu le Plan
social pour moi-même, ma
famille, et en pensant aux
collègues qui ont aussi souffert
et pour certains sont arrivés
à la recherche d'un emploi stable,
je ne peux signer qu'un
soit pour Rockwell a Columbia.

Solubation

Alonso

A. Conelas

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTS et al.
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Int'l Filing Date: 30 March 1998
U.S. Serial No.: 09/381,890
Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

DECLARATION RE INVENTOR SARAH DESMOTS

I, Frederick H. Rabin, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney of record in this application and am responsible for its prosecution.
2. In a renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) filed on 21 February 2002, we attempted to show that inventor Sarah Desmots could not, after diligent effort, be found. In a Decision on Petition dated 27 August 2002, the evidence we submitted was held to be inadequate because no attempts were made to contact Ms. Desmots' local post office to check for a forwarding address or to check a local phone directory or to check an Internet directory.
3. In 20 November 2002, I sent a letter by Air Mail to Ms. Sarah Desmots at her last known address asking her to execute a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. The Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney was stapled to a copy of PCT publication WO 98/44898. Air Mail, rather than a faster courier service, was chosen in the expectation that, if Ms. Desmots was no longer at that address, the letter would be forwarded. Attached, as Exhibit O-1, is a copy of my letter to Ms. Desmots and a copy of the documents included with said letter.
4. On 6 January 2003, the letter to Ms. Desmots was returned by the postal authorities with a stamp reading (in translation) "Does not live at the indicated address. Return to sender." Attached hereto, as Exhibit O-2 is a copy of the front of the envelope.
5. In a further attempt to locate Ms. Desmots, I did a search in the pagesjaune.fr database which provides telephone numbers and addresses throughout

France. Enclosed, as Exhibit O-3, is a copy of a printout dated 6 February 2003. No response was obtained, in the exact locality, or in the department, district or region. Furthermore, no Sarah Desmots was found in an extended search covering surnames without first names or addresses.

6. When I did the pagesjaune.fr search reported in the foregoing paragraph, I did not appreciate the fact that clicking on the Union Jack symbol would result in an English language version. This was done on 20 February 2003 and the printout is attached as Exhibit O-4. The results are exactly the same as in the original French version. No hits for Sarah Desmots.

I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patents issuing thereon.

Signed at New York, New York, this 21st day of February 2003



Frederick H. Rabin

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20 November 2002

Mme. Sarah Desmots
4 rue de la Fulda
F-28100 Dreux
FRANCE

Re: United States Application No. 09/381,890
PCT/GB98/00950 (WO 98/44898)
DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE
Our Ref.: 08291-619001



BOSTON

DALLAS

DELAWARE

NEW YORK

SAN DIEGO

SILICON VALLEY

TWIN CITIES

WASHINGTON, DC

Dear Mme. Desmots:

In order to proceed with the above-identified United States Patent Application for Project System H, it is necessary for you to execute the enclosed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. Attached to the Declaration is a complete copy of the Application including the written description, claims and drawings, which was published as WO98/44898 on 15 October 1998.

We would like to remind you that you are under obligation to sign the declaration by virtue of your continuing contractual obligations with Reckitt & Colman France. You have already assigned your rights in this application to Reckitt & Colman France. The enclosed declaration is a formal requirement under the patent laws of the United States.

We are not able to obtain stamps for the return envelope, I am also enclosing ten € in cash in order to cover return postage.

I would very much appreciate your signing the enclosed Declaration without detaching WO98/44898, and returning it to us as soon as possible.

Also, we would be grateful if you would keep us informed of any changes to your address. If your address has changed from that noted on the attached declaration, please update address details on the form in manuscript.

I thank you in anticipation of your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to receiving the executed document as a matter of extreme urgency.

FISH & CHARDSON P.C.

20 November 2002

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Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F H Rabin", written in a cursive style.

Frederick H. Rabin

FHR/myw

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Amanda Wilde, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Ref. 10456P2USw

30124681.doc



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 7/155	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/44898 (43) International Publication Date: 15 October 1998 (15.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/00950 (22) International Filing Date: 30 March 1998 (30.03.98) (30) Priority Data: 97400811.2 9 April 1997 (09.04.97) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: FR et al. 9711447.4 4 June 1997 (04.06.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except MN US): RECKITT & COLMAN FRANCE [FR/FR]; 15, rue Ampère, Boîte Postale 83, F-91301 Massy Cedex (FR). (71) Applicant (for MN only): RECKITT & COLMAN PRODUCTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; One Burlington Lane, London W4 2RW (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GUILLAUME, Bruno [FR/FR]; 3, impasse de la Chesnaye, Craches, F-78660 Prunay en Yvelines (FR). LEDON, Philippe [FR/FR]; 5, hauts de Chateau, F-28300 Saint Prest (FR). CANELAS, Annick [FR/FR]; 53, rue de Voves, F-28630 Le Coudray (FR). ACHER, David [FR/FR]; 1, rue Jean Laillet, Ap- partement 10, F-28000 Chartres (FR). HEMERY, Séverine		<p>[FR/FR]; Les Oeillets 16, La Potinière, F-27320 Nonan- court (FR). DAHMS, Gerd [DE/DE]; Beerenbusch 11, D-42549 Velbert (DE). DESMOTS, Sarah [FR/FR]; 4, rue de la Fulda, F-28100 Dreux (FR). DELAGNEAU, Hubert [FR/FR]; 14, rue des Tilleuls, Bailleau l'Eveque, F-28300 Mainvilliers (FR).</p> <p>(74) Agents: ILOTT, Elizabeth, Anne et al.; Reckitt & Colman plc, Group Patents Dept., Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS (GB).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous gel comprises a substance capable of degrading hair keratin and a water-soluble polymeric binder and is buffered to a pH of from 10.5 to 13.0. The polymeric binder is formed from a first component that is a charged cross-linked polymer and a second component that comprises a linear non-ionic and/or charged polymer. The composition is preferably in the form of a stable gel that can be applied by means of a pump spray.</p>		

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DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

This invention relates to depilatory compositions, in particular those in the form of a gel.

- 5 Compositions for removing superfluous body hair are well known. These are of various types. One type of composition is in the form of a cream containing a depilatory agent which degrades hair keratin. In the case of a depilatory cream, hair is
10 removed by applying the cream to an area of skin to be depilated, leaving the cream on the skin for sufficient time for the hair to be chemically dissolved, and then wiping and/or washing the cream and unwanted hair from the skin. Another type of
15 composition is in the form of a wax, which is initially heated before being applied to the skin in a generally molten state. It is then allowed to solidify before being removed from the skin together with unwanted hair.
- 20 British patent specification no. GB 2 223 170 discloses a two-part depilatory composition in which the first part comprises polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and the second part comprises borax and a polyhydroxy alcohol, or Congo red; the second part functioning to effect a controlled rate of cross-linking of the PVA.
25 After *in situ* cross-linking, such compositions solidify, requiring the use of a plasticiser to enable the solid to be peeled from the skin. Such compositions preferably also include a surfactant.
- 30 Depilatory compositions in the form of a gel are less common and attempts to market such gels have had

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only limited success. The gels tended to have a higher skin irritancy than cream depilatories and became very sticky when being rinsed off because of the nature of the polymer present in the formulation. Moreover, depilatory compositions need to be of high
5 pH, and problems were encountered in formulating a gel which would be stable in such highly alkaline conditions.

It is an aim of the present invention to provide a
10 depilatory composition in the form of a gel which does not suffer from these disadvantages.

It is a further aim of the present invention to provide a depilatory composition in the form of a gel which may be sprayed onto the skin without
15 propellant.

It is another aim of the present invention to provide a depilatory gel having a reduced tendency to irritate the skin.

20 It has been found that these aims can be achieved by forming a gel from two water-soluble polymeric components and in a pH environment maintained by a preferred buffer system. One of the polymeric components provides the gel with appropriate
25 viscosity and the other polymeric component contributes to the stability of the gel.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention provides a depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:-
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- (i) a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer;
- 5 (ii) a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer;
- (iii) a depilatory agent; and
- 10 (iv) a buffer system capable of maintaining the pH of the composition at a value of from 10.5 to 13.0.

Preferably, the composition remains in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel in use.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing a depilatory composition, which process comprises:-

- 20 (i) forming a first premix by mixing water and a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer; forming a second premix by mixing water, a buffer and a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer; and optionally forming a third
25 premix by mixing a depilatory agent and a keratin degradation accelerator;
- (ii) adding a depilatory agent or the third premix to the second premix with stirring;

30

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(iii) adding the first premix to the resultant mixture with stirring; and

(iv) adjusting the pH to between 10.5 and 13.0.

5

The depilatory compositions of the present invention accordingly possess unique rheological qualities, which can be defined *inter alia* by their characteristic viscosity properties. For example, the shear rate (in seconds⁻¹) needed to decrease the viscosity of the gel by half is in the range of from about 10⁻² s⁻¹ to about 200 s⁻¹, preferably from about 1 s⁻¹ to about 50 s⁻¹. Such a large drop in the viscosity of depilatory compositions is not seen with prior art formulations over these shear rate ranges. At a low shear rate of about 10⁻² s⁻¹, the viscosity of the compositions of the present invention is of the order of 10³ Pas (10⁶ cP), whereas at a high shear rate of about 500 s⁻¹, their viscosity is of the order of about 0.1 Pas (100 cP). At a very high shear rate of the order of 4x10⁴ s⁻¹, such as that effected by a spray-pump (see Table 2 below), it is extremely difficult to measure viscosity, but it can be envisaged that that of the compositions of the present invention would be very low.

25 Preferably, a gel in accordance with the present invention has unique viscosity and elasticity, sustained high ionic strength and high pH.

The cross-linked polymer of the first component is such that it swells at high pH (pH 10.5 to 13) and preferably has only carbon-carbon bond

30

cross-linkages. More preferably, the elastic modulus of the first component is in the range of from 200 Pa to 1000 Pa, conveniently, 400 Pa to 600 Pa, when measured at a frequency of 10 rad/s; at a temperature of 20°C and a strain of 0.1. The elastic (storage) modulus (G') corresponds to the energy which can be stored and released by the material.

Suitable first components include a cross-linked acrylic polymer such as a carbomer, for example, Ultrez 10 and/or Carbopol ETD 2020 from Goodrich, and Structure 2000 and 3001 from National Starch. Another suitable polymer is a cross-linked polyacrylamide such as Seppigel 305. Most preferably, the polymer of the first component is a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene available from ISP under the trade designation Antaron Stabilise 06.

Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.1% to 3.0% by weight of the first component.

The second component is a linear non-ionic polymer and/or a positively charged polymer and/or a negatively charged polymer. The second, linear component is one which acts as a suspending agent for the gel and moderates the elastic modulus thereof to enable spreadability. Any suitable linear polymer may be chosen which enables the gel structure to be maintained at the osmotic pressure in the composition. Such linear polymers include hydrophilic polymers having a molecular weight of less than about 600 and non-ionic gel-forming polymers. For example, the second component may

comprise a water-soluble non-ionic polymer such as polyethylenimine, polyethylene oxide or polyethylene glycol (PEG), a hydrophobically-modified polyol such as Acrysol 44 from Rohm and Haas, or a polyvinyl pyrrolidone such as PVP K from ISP or Luviskol from BASF.

Alternatively, or additionally, the second component may comprise a natural water-soluble polymer such as cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, cetyl hydroxyethyl or propyl cellulose (for example Natrosol Plus from Aqualon), starch, polyglucoside, a polysaccharide such as an alginate, guar gum, carrageenan (lambda, kappa, iota), a sclerotium gum, a polypeptide with or without any alkyl chain (C1 to C18) modification and cationic end groups such as quaternary ammonium groups with counter ions such as chlorides and bromides, or a copolymer of sodium acrylate and dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride (such as that known as Merquat), or a copolymer of hydroxyethyl cellulose and dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride (such as that known as Celquat).

Most preferably, the second component comprises polyethylenimine (such as that known under the trade name Lupasol from BASF) and/or polyvinyl pyrrolidone (such as that known under the trade designation PVP K-30 from ISP).

Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.2% to 3.0% by weight of the second component.

The first and second components, when combined in accordance with the present invention, form a

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polymeric binder having unique viscosity and elasticity.

5 The depilatory agent may comprise any substance capable of degrading keratin and may be, for example, a sulphur compound such as potassium thioglycolate, dipotassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol.

10 Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.1% to 6.0% by weight of depilatory agent, preferably from about 3.0% to 5.0%.

15 Also, the composition may optionally include component(s) which will accelerate the keratin reduction reaction such as urea, thiourea or dithioerythritol, dimethyl isosorbide (DMI), ethoxydiglycol (Transcutol) and methyl propyldiol (MP diol). DMI is preferred.

20 It is important that the pH of the composition is in the range of from about 10.5 to 13, and preferably about 11.0 to 12.5, to provide good depilation within about 5 minutes. In order to achieve this, a suitable buffer should be present, such as sodium silicate and/or L-arginine, sodium nicotinate and potassium polyethylenimine or a phosphate.

25 Generally, the buffer system will be present in an amount of from about 2.0% to 8.0% by weight, preferably from about 2.0% to 4.0% by weight.

30 Advantageously, the buffer system comprises from 2.0% to 3.0% by weight of L-arginine and from 0 to 1.0% by weight of polyethylenimine.

The pH buffer system preferably ensures efficacy of the depilation within 5 minutes whilst also minimizing skin irritation.

5 In order to achieve minimum skin irritation, a composition including L-arginine and/or polyethylenimine, urea and potassium and/or dipotassium thioglycolate is preferred.

10 In accordance with a preferred depilatory composition of the present invention, there is provided an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:

(i) 0.1% to 3.0% w/w of a first polymeric
15 binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer, preferably a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene;

(ii) 0.2% to 3.0% w/w of a second polymeric
20 binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer, preferably polyethylenimine and/or polyvinyl pyrrolidone;

(iii) 0.1% to 6.0% w/w, preferably 3.0% to 5.0%
25 w/w of a depilatory agent, preferably potassium and/or dipotassium thioglycolate;

(iv) 2.0% to 6.0% w/w, preferably 2.0% to
30 4.0% w/w of a buffer system, preferably L-arginine and/or polyethylenimine; and, optionally,

- (v) 5.0% to 10.0% w/w of an accelerator for the degradation of keratin, preferably urea;

whereby the composition preferably remains in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel in use.

5

The gels according to the present invention are preferably transparent and remain transparent in use, depending on the amount of active ingredients present and on the procedure of mixing. Generally, they have a thick, rich feel and excellent rinsability with water. Moreover it is not necessary to include a surfactant in the compositions of the present invention, and hence they are less likely to cause skin damage.

10

15

Due to the special rheology of the polymeric binder, it is possible to include beads, dyes and/or oily particles which will remain dispersed in the gel. Optional excipients include compounds for soothing the skin such as azulene or jojoba and polyethylene glycol ester to reduce irritation. Suitable beads include encapsulated algae extract and sweet almond oil (Elespher). It is also possible to include hydrating, accelerating and/or reducing agents in beads. For example, water-soluble materials such as urea, potassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol can be included in beads, so that these actives are encapsulated.

20

25

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Although it is possible to provide a gel in accordance with the present invention that has visco-elastic properties suitable for spraying, the depilatory material may alternatively be applied by

-10-

means of a roll-on device or in conventional shower gel packaging.

Other ingredients may be included in the compositions of the invention, such as are known in the art.

Unless otherwise stated, all percentage weights referred to herein are % weights based on the weight of the total composition.

10

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

15

Figure 1 is a graph of shear stress (Pa) against shear rate (s^{-1}) for a series of polymeric binders (first component) for the composition of the invention;

20

Figure 2 is a graph of the yield points (Pa) of the binders of Figure 1 against the cross-linked polymer (first component) contents (% w/w) of the binders;

25

Figure 3 is a graph of viscosities (Pas) of the binders of Figure 1 against the shear rate (s^{-1}) of the binders; and

Figure 4 is a graph of the elastic (G') and viscous (G'') moduli against stress/strain (Pa) of the first component of the composition.

30

The following Examples illustrate the invention:

EXAMPLES 1 TO 6

A series of depilatory gels was prepared having the compositions shown in the following Table 1:

5

TABLE 1

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Phase 1						
Polymer A	3.0%	2.5%	2.25%	2.0%	1.5%	1.0%
10 deionised water	47.0%	39.0%	36.35%	31.4%	23.5%	15.7%
Phase 2						
Polymer B	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
pH buffer	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
15 deionised water	10.7%	19.2%	24.8%	26.4%	38.3%	45.8%
Phase 3						
20 potassium thioglycolate (30%)	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%
urea	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Final mix						
Phase 1	50.0%	41.5%	37.5%	33.4%	25.0%	16.7%
Phase 2	15.7%	24.2%	29.8%	33.4%	43.3%	50.8%
25 Phase 3	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%
Potassium hydroxide 50%	11.6%	11.6%	10.0%	10.5%	9.0%	9.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
30 Total deionised water	57.5%	58.0%	59.9%	59.6%	1.6%	61.3%

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All amounts are expressed as % weight/weight total composition. Polymer A was a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer cross-linked with dodecadiene known under the trade designation Antaron ST06 from ISP; and polymer B
5 was polyvinyl pyrrolidone known under the trade designation PVP K-30 from ISP. The pH buffer system was a combination of 2% w/w of L-arginine and 1% w/w of polyethylenimine.

10 In each case, an Olsa mixer with planar stirring and a high shear stirrer equipped with a vacuum and heating/cooling system was used. The procedure was as follows:

Phase 1: Premix polymer A and water.

15 The water was placed in the mixer and polymer A was added slowly with stirring. When the polymer had been dispersed, heating was commenced whilst maintaining a vacuum of about 0.5 to 0.8 bar to avoid air bubbles. The vacuum pump was operating
20 intermittently in order to reduce water loss. When the temperature had reached about 80°C an almost clear gel had been formed. This was allowed to cool and swell overnight.

Phase 2: Premix polymer B, water, pH buffer

25 The water and polymer B were introduced into the mixer and homogenised for 2 minutes. The pH buffer system was then added and the mixture homogenised for a further 2 minutes.

30

Phase 3: Urea and potassium thioglycolate

The urea was added to the potassium thioglycolate in a beaker and stirred for 1 hour to complete dissolution.

5

Final mixing: The final mixing was effected as follows:-

Phase 2 was placed in the vessel and phase 3 was added with stirring for 15 minutes. A white precipitate appeared. Phase 1 was added while mixing slowly under vacuum (0.5 bar) with planar stirring and the high shear stirrer operated at low speed. The mixture was homogenised for 30 minutes until a lumpy gel had been formed. The potassium hydroxide was then added. The gel became clear and transparent. The pH was adjusted, as necessary, to from 11.0 to 12.5.

10
15

Each of the resultant gels was subjected to rheological measurement. The parameters considered were shear stress, shear rate, viscosity and yield point. The results are shown in the Figures.

20

As can be seen from Figure 1, the variation of shear stress with shear rate is non-linear between 0 and 500 s^{-1} and thus the gel has a non-Newtonian behaviour with a yield point. The yield point is the stress required to make the gel flow. Figure 2 shows that the variation of the yield point (τ_0), i.e. the shear stress for zero shear rate, varies exponentially. For a small variation in the amount of polymer A, the variation in the yield point, i.e. the variation in spreadability or consistency, may be significant.

25

30

The following table, Table 2, gives characteristic shear rates of products to be sprayed with a conventional pump spray and products to be applied from a shower gel packaging.

5 TABLE 2

	Type of packaging	Flow Rate (from packaging) of product (cm ³ /s)	Radius of the external output (cm)	Shear rate (s ⁻¹)
10	Pump Spray	0.17	0.0175 (radius of the actuator)	500-40000
15	Shower gel packaging	8.8	ca 0.15	500-30000

The relationship between shear rate and viscosity is shown in Figure 3, from which it can be seen that, at the shear rates given in Table 2, the viscosity is very low.

20

It has been found that, in order for the gel to be sprayable with a pump spray, its yield point should be not more than from 100 to 200 Pa. If, however, the gel is to be used in a shower gel pack, the yield point may be as high as 300 Pa. Also, in order for
25 the product to remain still for 5 minutes on the skin when held vertical, the yield point needs to be about 60 Pa or more. Thus gels wherein polymer A constitutes from 2.0% to 2.5% w/w are preferred for spraying, whereas rather lower percentages of
30 polymer A may be present where the gel is to be used in the form of a shower gel packaging.

In a further series of experiments, the blue powder Azulene was dissolved in thick paraffin oil to produce a 1% w/w solution. 2% w/w of this solution was then slowly added to each of the above gels and stirred for 5 minutes. The Azulene remained stably suspended within the gel in the form of blue oily droplets. Depending upon the concentration of Azulene in the premix and the concentration of premix in the gel, the size and colour of the droplets and the overall transparency of the gel could be adjusted.

In a further series of experiments, 0.5% w/w of Elespher was slowly added to each gel and stirred for 5 minutes. Elespher consists of encapsulated beads of algae extract and sweet almond oil, and is green in colour. The beads were stably suspended in the gel.

EXAMPLE 7

Gels were made in accordance with the following Table 3:

TABLE 3

	%w/w
Phase 1	
polymer A	1-3
water	40.0
KOH 50%	4.0
Total phase 1	47.0

-16-

	Phase 2	
	polymer B	0.6-3
	buffer system	3.0
5	water	8.2
	Total phase 2	11.8
	Phase 3	
	water	6.5
10	potassium thioglycolate (30%)	14.7
	Total phase 3	29.2
	water	to 100.0
	KOH 50%	6.15

15

The amount of water was varied depending upon the amounts of polymers A and B present. Polymers A and B were as used in Examples 1 to 6 and the mixing technique employed was as described in those Examples. In each case, stable, sprayable depilatory gels were obtained. This showed that for a range of polymer A between 1.0% and 3.0%, a range of polymer B between 0.6% and 3.0% could be used and a stable, sprayable gel formed.

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CLAIMS

1. A depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:

5

(i) a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer;

10

(ii) a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer;

(iii) a depilatory agent; and

15

(iv) a buffer system capable of maintaining the pH of the composition at a value of from 10.5 to 13.0.

20

2. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cross-linked polymer of the first component is a cross-linked acrylic polymer, a cross-linked polyacrylamide or a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene.

25

3. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which includes from 0.1 to 3.0% w/w of the first component.

30

4. A depilatory composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the second component comprises a linear, non-ionic polymer and/or positively charged polymer and/or negatively charged polymer.

-18-

5. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second component comprises one or more of polyethylenimine, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, cellulose, hydroxy propyl cellulose, cetyl hydroxy ethyl cellulose, cetyl
5 hydroxy propyl cellulose, starch, a polyglucoside, a polysaccharide, guar gum, carrageenan, a sclerotium gum, a polypeptide, and a copolymer of sodium acrylate or of hydroxy ethyl cellulose with dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride.
- 10 6. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which includes from 0.2 to 3.0% w/w of the second component.
- 15 7. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the depilatory agent is potassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol.
- 20 8. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, including an accelerator for the degradation of keratin, such as urea, thiourea, dithioerythritol, ethoxydiglycol or methylpropyldiol.
- 25 9. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, including a buffer system comprising a silicate, arginine such as L-arginine, a nicotinate, polyethylenimine or a phosphate.
10. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim and having a yield point of not more than 200 Pa.

30

11. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the shear rate needed to decrease the viscosity of the gel by half is in the range of from 10^{-2} s^{-1} to 200 s^{-1} , preferably from 1 s^{-1} to 50 s^{-1} .

5

12. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, in the form of a sprayable gel.

13. A process for producing a depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which process comprises:-

10

(i) forming a first premix by mixing water and the first component; forming a second premix by mixing water, a buffer and the second component; and optionally forming a third premix by mixing a depilatory agent and a keratin degradation accelerator;

15

(ii) adding a depilatory agent or the third premix to the second premix with stirring;

20

(iii) adding the first premix to the resultant mixture with stirring; and

(iv) adjusting the pH to between 10.5 to 13.0.

25

30

Fig.1.

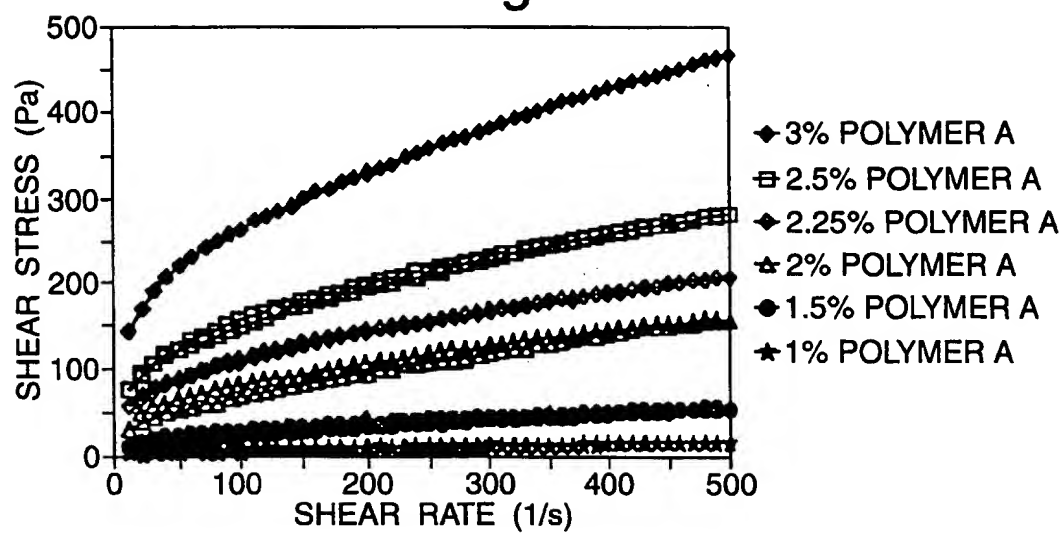


Fig.2.

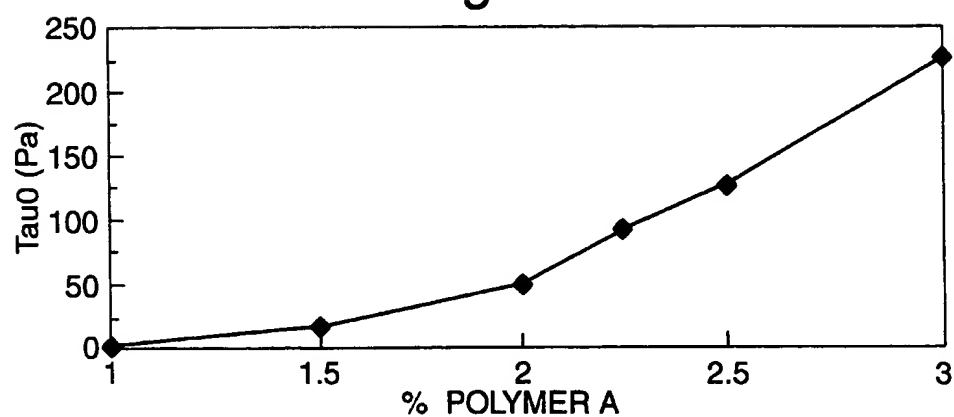


Fig.3.

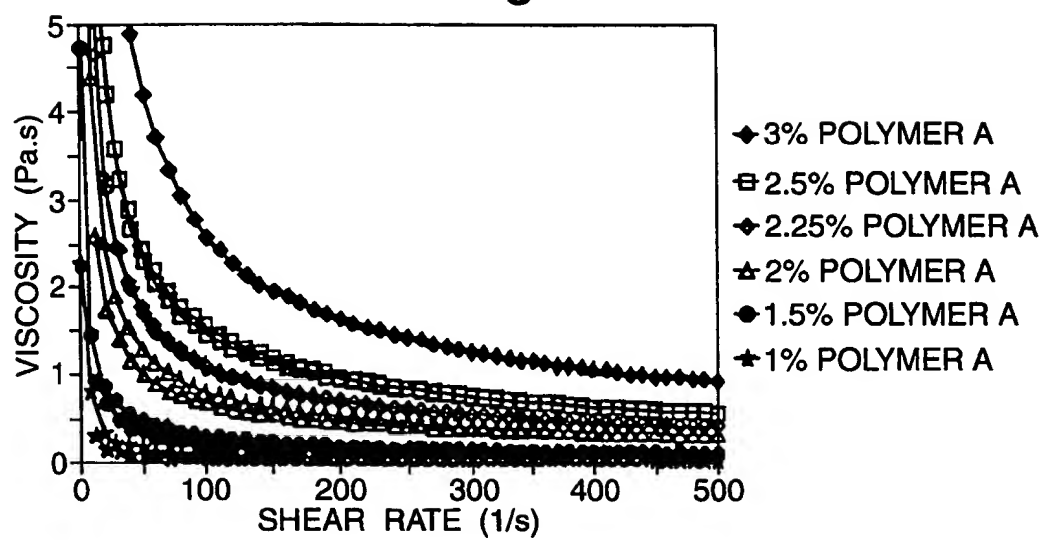
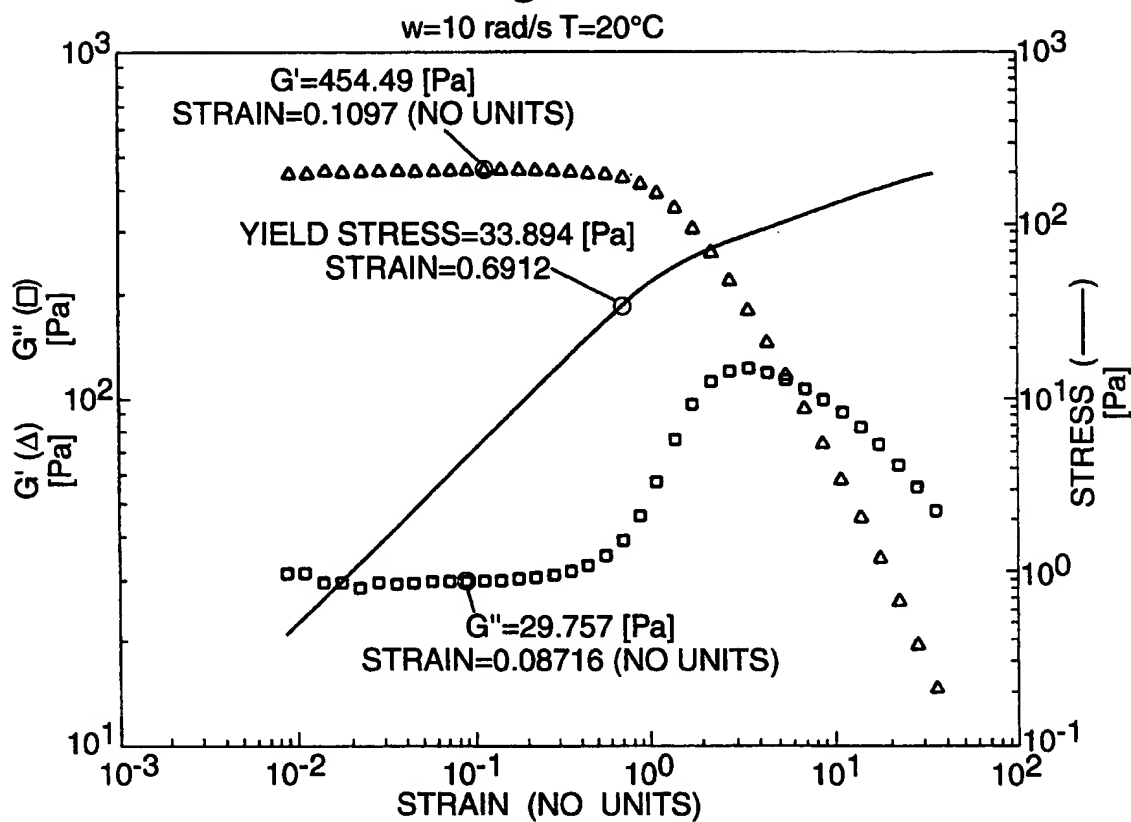


Fig.4.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In Application No
PCT/GB 98/00950

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K7/155

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 91 02538 A (JOHN MORRIS CO., INC.) 7 March 1991 see example 9 ---	1
A	EP 0 196 896 A (NITTO ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD) 8 October 1986 ---	1
A	US 4 842 610 A (H. GORDON ET AL.) 27 June 1989 ---	1
A	DATABASE "CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS" (HOST: STN), Abs.110: 198 956, Columbus, OH, USA; & JP 63 313 618 (OSAKA AEROSOL IND. CO.) 21 December 1988 XP002071920 ---	1
A,P	FR 2 751 873 A (C. DES GARETS) 6 February 1998 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Application No
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9102538 A	07-03-1991	AU 6425590 A CA 2065044 A EP 0487648 A JP 5503071 T	03-04-1991 19-02-1991 03-06-1992 27-05-1993
EP 196896 A	08-10-1986	JP 62192316 A JP 61220612 A JP 1794446 C JP 4080682 B JP 61276506 A US 4830633 A	22-08-1987 30-09-1986 14-10-1993 21-12-1992 06-12-1986 16-05-1989
US 4842610 A	27-06-1989	NONE	
FR 2751873 A	06-02-1998	NONE	

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I Sarah DESMOTS hereby declare that:

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was filed on September 24, 1999 as Application Serial No. 09/381,890 and,
was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/GB98/00950
filed on 30 March 1998.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

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Country	Application No.	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
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British	9711447.4	4 June 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Page 2 of 2 Pages

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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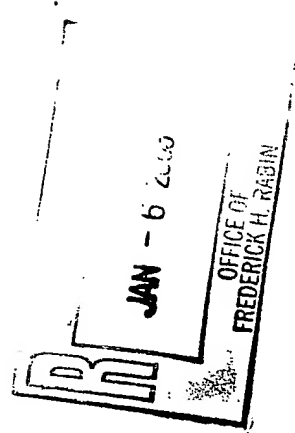
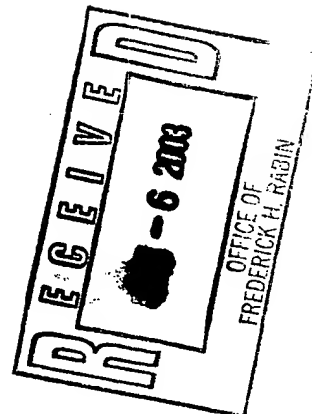
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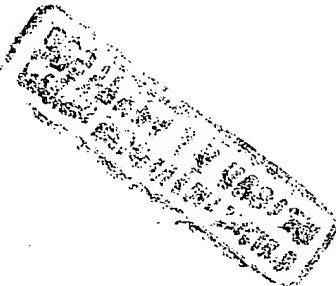
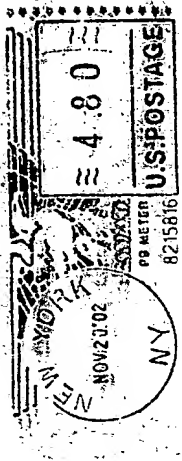
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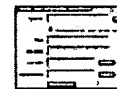
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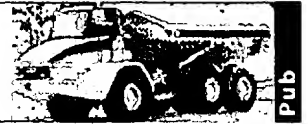
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Desmots Auguste

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Desmots Frédéric

Le Bourg 61500 SAINT GERVAIS DU PERRON

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> **ARGENTAN (61200)**

La Maison des Mots

4 r Pierre Corneille 61200 ARGENTAN

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Desmots Alain avocat

domicile

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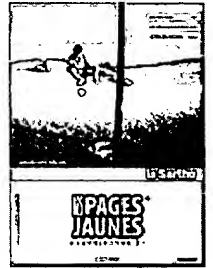
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jeudi 06 février

Votre requête : **DESMOTS**

Recherche multi-départements

26 réponse(s) en orthographe exacte

(liste 21-26)

SEINE ET MARNE (77)

> **LE MEE SUR SEINE (77350)**

Emile-Desmots Liliane

151 r Eugène Delacroix 77350 LE MEE SUR SEINE | [Plan](#)

01 60 68 07 36

YVELINES (78)

> **EPONE (78680)**

Desmots Hermann

12Bis chem Aumone 78680 EPONE

01 30 90 23 39

> **GUYANCOURT (78280)**

Desmots Pascale

29 bd D'Alembert 78280 GUYANCOURT | [Plan](#)

01 30 48 90 86

> **HOUILLES (78800)**

Desmots Philippe

69 r Chanzy 78800 HOUILLES | [Plan](#)

01 39 14 12 89

> **MAGNY LES HAMEAUX (78114)**

Desmots Georges

4 sent Saules 78114 MAGNY LES HAMEAUX

01 30 52 27 11

> **VIROFLAY (78220)**

Desmots Jeannine

2 lieu-dit Clos St Vigor 78220 VIROFLAY | [Plan](#)

01 30 24 73 03



Autre recherche Pages Blanches :

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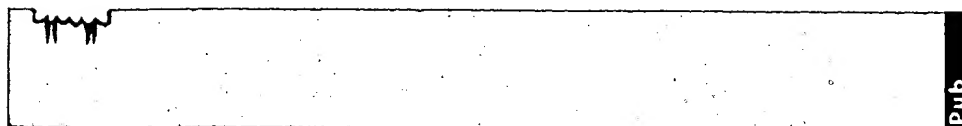
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> Your White Pages search :

Thursday February 20

⚠ No result

- ▶ Search in the whole department district
- ▶ Search in the adjoining cities

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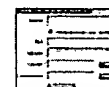
Photos of streets or
façades in the town
of your choice.

Your town : ▾

paris.planresto.fr

Choose a type of
food, a price range,
a neighborhood...
9000 parisian
restaurants on line !

Hosted formula

Insert Yellow Pages
on your site...

Name Desmots

First name Sarah

Address

e.g. 7 av de la cristallerie

Town DREUX

e.g. rennes, paris 9, 37100

Dept district
or region

e.g. 92, finistère, aquitaine, idf

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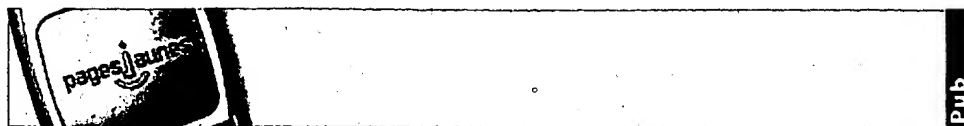
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- ▶ Search in an adjoining department district
- ▶ Search without the address or first name

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Photos of streets or façades in the town of your choice.

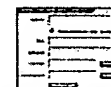
Your town :

paris.planresto.fr



Choose a type of food, a price range, a neighborhood... 9000 parisian restaurants on line !

Hosted formula



Insert Yellow Pages on your site...

Name
First name
Address
 e.g. 7 av de la cristallerie
Town
 e.g. rennes, paris 9, 37100
Dept district or region
 e.g. 92, finistère, aquitaine, idf

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▶ Search without the address or first name

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Photos of streets or façades in the town of your choice.

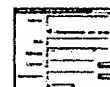
Your town :

paris.planresto.fr



Choose a type of food, a price range, a neighborhood... 9000 parisian restaurants on line !

Hosted formula



Insert Yellow Pages on your site...

Name

First name

Address

e.g. 7 av de la cristallerie

Town

e.g. rennes, paris 9, 37100

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Dept district or region

e.g. 92, finistère, aquitaine, idf

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> Your White Pages search :

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Your query : **DESMOTS**
Recherche multi-départements
26 answer(s) with exact spelling

(list 1-10)

LOIR ET CHER (41)> **MONTRICHARD (41400)** [site de la mairie](#)

Desmots Frédéric
96 r Nationale 41400 MONTRICHARD

02 54 32 86 53**ORNE (61)**> **ALENCON (61000)** [site de la mairie](#)

Desmots Ludovic
25 sente Quatorze 61000 ALENCON | [Map](#)

02 33 31 70 41> **SAINT GERMAIN DU CORBEIS (61000)**

Desmots Auguste
14 r Gresset 61000 SAINT GERMAIN DU CORBEIS

02 33 26 77 31> **SAINT GERVAIS DU PERRON (61500)**

Desmots Frédéric
Le Bourg 61500 SAINT GERVAIS DU PERRON

02 33 27 53 98> **ARGENTAN (61200)**

La Maison des Mots
4 r Pierre Corneille 61200 ARGENTAN

**02 33 39 71 60
02 33 67 24 98****SARTHE (72)**> **LE MANS (SARTHE)**

Desmots Alain avocat
domicile
28 r Auvray 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)

02 43 28 28 02

Desmots Claude
40 r Claude Bernard 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)

02 43 87 03 08**Desmots Didier****Useful****Annuaire**

Commander
Les Pages Jaunes
du Loir et Cher

Query :
&Pages Jaunes

Activity :

Go

34 imp Mathurin Jousse 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)

02 43 85 79 63

Desmots Gérard

59 r Cavaignac 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)

02 43 86 34 16

Desmots Henri

4 r Paul Courboulay 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)

02 43 23 93 19



New search :

Name	<input type="text" value="Desmots"/>
First name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
Dept district or region	<input type="text" value="7 SELECTIONS"/>



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> Your White Pages search :

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Your query : **DESMOTS**
Recherche multi-départements
26 answer(s) with exact spelling

(list 11-20)

> SARTHE (72)

> LE MANS (SARTHE)

Desmots Jean238 r Eventail 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)**02 43 86 08 78****Desmots Jean**3 prom Newton 72100 LE MANS | [Map](#)**02 43 86 05 36****Desmots Jean**55 r Valence 72000 LE MANS | [Map](#)**02 43 82 17 12****Desmots Rolande**9 r Yokel 72100 LE MANS | [Map](#)**02 43 85 16 46**

> YVRE L'EVEQUE (72530)

Desmots Marie

20 av Guy Bouriat 72530 YVRE L'EVEQUE

02 43 76 26 10

SEINE ET MARNE (77)

> PONTAULT COMBAULT (77340)

Desmots Emmanuel62 r Grande Haie 77340 PONTAULT COMBAULT | [Map](#)**01 60 29 73 01****Desmots Jean-Marc**3 r Concorde 77340 PONTAULT COMBAULT | [Map](#)**01 60 34 63 77**

> ROISSY EN BRIE (77680)

Desmots Patrick1 r Jules Ferry 77680 ROISSY EN BRIE | [Map](#)**01 70 10 13 39**

> SAVIGNY LE TEMPLE (77176)

Desmots Alain

5 résid Ruisseau 77176 SAVIGNY LE TEMPLE

01 64 10 77 82

> MEAUX (77100)

Useful

Query :
&Pages Jaunes

Activity :

Go

Le Bruit des Mots

11 pl Marché 77100 MEAUX | [Map](#)

01 60 32 07 33
fax : **01 60 32 07 34**



New search :

Name	<input type="text" value="Desmots"/>
First name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
Dept district or region	<input type="text" value="7 SELECTIONS"/>



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> Your White Pages search :

Thursday February 20

Your query : **DESMOTS**

Recherche multi-départements

26 answer(s) with exact spelling

(list 21-26)

SEINE ET MARNE (77)> **LE MEE SUR SEINE (77350)****Emile-Desmots Liliane**151 r Eugène Delacroix 77350 LE MEE SUR SEINE | [Map](#)**01 60 68 07 36****YVELINES (78)**> **EPONE (78680)****Desmots Hermann**

12Bis chem Aumone 78680 EPONE

01 30 90 23 39> **GUYANCOURT (78280)****Desmots Pascale**29 bd D'Alembert 78280 GUYANCOURT | [Map](#)**01 30 48 90 86**> **HOUILLES (78800)****Desmots Philippe**69 r Chanzy 78800 HOUILLES | [Map](#)**01 39 14 12 89**> **MAGNY LES HAMEAUX (78114)****Desmots Georges**

4 sent Saules 78114 MAGNY LES HAMEAUX

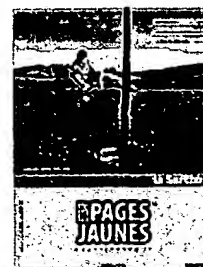
01 30 52 27 11> **VIROFLAY (78220)****Desmots Jeannine**2 lieu-dit Clos St Vigor 78220 VIROFLAY | [Map](#)**01 30 24 73 03**

New search :

Name First name Address

Useful

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de la SartheQuery :
&Pages Jaunes

Activity :

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Dept district
or region

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTS et al.
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB98/00950
Int'l Filing Date: 30 March 1998
U.S. Serial No.: 09/381,890
Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

DECLARATION RE INVENTOR PHILIPPE LEDON

I, Frederick H. Rabin, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney of record in this application and am responsible for its prosecution.
2. In a renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) filed on 21 February 2002, we attempted to show that inventor Philippe Ledon could not, after diligent effort, be found. In a Decision on Petition dated 27 August 2002, the evidence we submitted was held to be inadequate because no attempts were made to contact Mr. Ledon's local post office to check for a forwarding address or to check a local phone directory or to check an Internet directory.
3. In 20 November 2002, I sent a letter by Air Mail to Mr. Philippe Ledon at his last known address asking him to execute a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. The Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney was stapled to a copy of PCT publication WO 98/44898. Air Mail, rather than a faster courier service, was chosen in the expectation that, if Mr. Ledon was no longer at that address, the letter would be forwarded. Attached, as Exhibit P-1, is a copy of my letter to Mr. Ledon and a copy of the documents included with said letter.
4. On 6 January 2003, the letter to Mr. Ledon was returned by the postal authorities with a stamp reading (in translation) "Does not live at the indicated address. Return to sender." Attached hereto, as Exhibit P-2, is a copy of the front of the envelope.
5. On 6 January 2003, in a further effort to find Mr. Ledon I did a search in the pagesjaune.fr database and came up with:

Philippe Le Don
10 rue Varenne
28300 Champhol.

This database provides telephone numbers and addresses throughout France. Attached hereto, as Exhibit P-3, is a printout dated 6 February 2003 of the search results. (I did not print out the search done in January, but the results are believed to be identical).

6. In view of the slightly different spelling, I asked Ms. Karen Grant, the Formalities Officer in the Group Patents Department of Reckitt Benckiser plc, parent company of the current Assignee, Reckitt Benckiser France, to ascertain whether this Philippe Le Don was the person we are looking for. Ms. Grant was unable to reach Mr. Le Don by telephone.

7. On the assumption this Philippe Le Don may be the Philippe Ledon we are looking for, I sent to him, on 7 February 2003, a letter substantially identical to the letter sent on 20 November 2002. A copy of my letter is here enclosed as Exhibit P-4. The enclosure in this letter was the same as the enclosure from my earlier letter, part of Exhibit P-1. Also included was a prepaid Federal Express return envelope. A copy of the Federal Express shipping label is attached as Exhibit P-5. Federal Express, rather than the postal service, was chosen because Federal express is faster and because there was no apparent need to forward the materials to another address.

8. The Federal Express tracking document, attached hereto as Exhibit P-6, indicates that the package was delivered on 10 February 2003 and signed for by one "Leclerc". As of this date we have not received the signed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney.

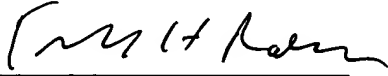
I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTTE et al.
Serial No. : 09/381,890
Filed : September 24, 1999
Page : 3

Attorney's Docket No. 08291-619001 / 10456P2-Usw

that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patents issuing thereon.

Signed at New York, New York, this 21st day of February 2003



Frederick H. Rabin